Boycott of sale of drugs by chemists

1416. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that chemists all over the country are planning to boycott sale of drugs manufactured by seven well-known pharmaceutical companies unless the retail and whole sale commission is increased;

(b) what steps Government are contemplating to take to make available all the essential and life saving drugs needed by the sick people if this boycott takes place from July 31, 1984; and

(c) if the drug manufacturers agree to the increase of commission, what effect this will have on the retail price?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE). (a) and (b) It has not been brought to the notice of my Ministry as to whether chemists all over the country are planning to boycott of sale of drugs manufactured by seven well known pharmaceutical companies. However, a section of chemists are reportedly agitating against the implementation of Pharmacy Act from 31st July 1984 medicines are reportedly available in Super Bazars, Co-operatives etc., Provisions also exist for curbing Restricted Trade Practices under Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of Drug Policy, 1978

1417. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 153 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 1984 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drug Policy, 1978 which was mainly devised to increase production of bulk drugs failed to achieve the said objective;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the para-wise provisions of 1978 Policy which have been implemented by Government and what is the extent of implementation;

(d) what are the reasons for non-implementation of over twenty provisions of Drug Policy, 1978 which are considered to be very vital and important; and

(e) what are the reasons for attempting changes in respect to the provisions not implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir, the production of bulk drugs increased from Rs. 164 Crores in 1977-78 to Rs. 325 crores in 1982-83 and is estimated to have reached a level of Rs. 345 crores in 1983-84.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Of the 104 paragraphs of the New Drug Policy Statement laid on the Table of the House, and covering about 123 points all but 20 paragraphs have been implemented. Out of these 20 paragraphs, provisions of paragraphs 12(xiv), 37, 41, 43, 49, 57, 59, 66, 67, 68, 73, 75, 91 and 92 of the New Drugs Policy have not so far been implemented. Provision of paragraphs 21, 38, 42, 63, 71 and 95 of the New Drug Policy have been implemented partially. The non-partial implementation is due to the reasons such as the need to amend the industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, practical problems experienced during implementation and the need to reconcile with the various objectives of the New Drug Policy. Taking into account the experience so far gained in the implementation and the overall requirements in this sector the drug policy is being reviewed by the National Developments Council for Drugs and Phamaceuticals.